

The Manager
Spectrum Licensing Policy Section
Australian Communications and Media Authority
PO Box 13112
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14th July 2025

RE: Changes to CB radio arrangements – Consultation Paper

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the CB class licence as outlined in the June 2025 consultation paper. GME wishes to respond to ACMA on the following items.

Identification of a CB radio – additional duty cycle

GME supports the proposed additional duty cycle for CB radios that transmit radio signals to identify the station or indicate its geographic location.

Increasing the duty cycle of a data burst appended to the end of a voice transmission is a practical and forward-looking enhancement. This change appropriately reflects the growing interest in and adoption of identification features within the CB radio community. It also aligns with contemporary operational practices and technological capabilities, without imposing undue restrictions on users. By enabling brief, appended data bursts for station identification, the proposal strikes a sensible balance between operational flexibility and spectrum efficiency. It also supports improved situational awareness and accountability among CB radio users, which may be particularly beneficial in both recreational and emergency communication contexts.

Use of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) applications

GME supports the proposed inclusion of a specific condition in the CB class licence to authorise the use of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) applications in conjunction with CB radios.

The integration of VoIP technology into CB radio operations reflects a natural and beneficial evolution in how users engage with the service. As noted in the consultation paper, these applications allow smart devices to function as walkie-talkies when connected to CB radios, offering users greater convenience, accessibility, and flexibility—particularly in mobile or remote settings. Formalising this capability within the licence framework will encourage further innovation and responsible use within the CB radio community.

Channel arrangements for data transmission (telemetry and telecommand)

GME appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed changes to channel arrangements for data transmission.

GME supports the proposal to convert UHF channels 22 and 23 from 25 kHz to 12.5 kHz, as well as the authorisation of channels 61, 62, and 63 for these purposes. These changes would offer greater spectrum efficiency and accommodate the growing demand for data transmission among our customers, particularly in applications such as environmental monitoring, agriculture, and remote operations. Further, GME proposes that additional telemetry and telecommand channels may present an opportunity to relax or remove duty cycle limits for data transmission on these channels, pending consultation with users.

While we acknowledge that some legacy 25KHz CB radios may still be in use, these radios have not been available for sale for over 10 years, and the majority of users have already transitioned to modern equipment capable of narrowband functionality. For those still using older devices, we believe the long-term benefits of increased channel availability and improved performance justify the upgrade.

GME appreciates ACMA's commitment to engaging stakeholders through this consultation process and commend its proactive approach to modernising the CB class licence in line with evolving user needs and technological developments.

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